

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

The editor is not responsible for the views of correspondents.

RALEIGH, N. C., JULY 6, 1897.

This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

Do you want your paper changed to another office? State the one at which you have been getting it.

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"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows of the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."—L. L. Polk, July 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We hope there will be a full attendance at the county meetings. Let all come. Bring your thinking machine even if you leave your Sunday clothes.

The State Alliance is to face momentous problems and the exact will of the people should be known. Don't forget to speak a good word for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Every school in the State that wishes to reach the people of North Carolina should advertise in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Now is the time to send in your ad. Rates reasonable.

It is now Dr. McKinley and Dr. Cleveland. Both are L. L. D. We don't know about their knowledge of law, but we rather believe a first rate "conjure" doctor could beat them in doctoring the nation's finances.

According to the late Marcus Anthony Hanna and others, the election of McKinley and a revision of the tariff meant the restoration of confidence, good times and high wages. As things are going the other way, and strikes and reductions continue, explanations are in order.

In the opening prayer of the Senate recently, Rev. Hugh Johnson returned thanks to God for "the courage, disinterestedness and generosity" exhibited by Congressmen in the tariff bill. We find a good example of their "disinterestedness" in the fact that so many left for the summer resorts.

The Governor of West Virginia is a hummer. He fell in love with a woman, but at this juncture she was charged with forgery. Nowise daunted, the Governor proceeded to have the hymeneal knot tied, and quietly informed his wife's accusers that if she were to be convicted, that he would immediately pardon her. That looks like business, and we wish the pucky chief magistrate and his wife much success.

The Charlotte Observer seems to think we object to its kicking. Not at all. Why, as President of the Tar Heel Kickers' Club, we'll give it permission to kick 23 hours per day. Editor J. P. is a new hand, we believe, however. He kicks about others desiring free coinage. If the learned colonel would simply get a better pair of glasses, he'd see we have had the gold standard for about 25 years. Kickers must kick for changes, if they wish to become professionals.

Our Democratic friends often do some very foolish things for political effect. We think it strange that such intelligent people can't see any further ahead. For instance: The tirade against Keeper of the Capitol Burns, who has been trimming up the trees in the capitol square, something long needed. We might not cut off the same limbs in every instance. No two will agree on such matters, and we take it that Mr. Burns is running the job to suit himself. But to read some papers you might think that he was committing high crimes. Such nonsense will not benefit the Democratic party.

SIMONTON'S DECISION.

The decision rendered by Judge Simonton in the North Carolina Railroad case, the pith of which we publish in another column, was not unexpected. Judge Simonton may not be a tool of the Southern Railway. We do not charge that he received pay for rendering a decision in favor of the road. But some men are so constituted that their leaning is always in favor of corporations. They were born that way. Possibly they can't help it. Instead of throwing their sympathies with the under dog sometimes they are always with the upper one. If they do anything they are sorry for they are always glad of it. A mean lot will hurt the conscience of the average man, but the type we are trying to describe will lie awake at night if they happen to do something real good. Judge Simonton is that kind of a citizen. Perhaps the Southern Railway had nothing to do with the appointment of Judge Simonton. But you may rest assured that the Judge would not have been appointed if he had not been built according to the specifications placed on file by the Southern Railway Company. The officers of that Company knew just exactly the kind of clay he was made of. So, of course, they carried their case before him, well knowing what his decision would be.

It will be noticed that Judge Simonton appoints Kerr Craige referee to take testimony to show whether or not there was fraud in the lease of the North Carolina Railroad to the Southern for 99 years. Mr. Craige has always stood high in public estimation, but two terms under Cleveland and now a job from Simonton is enough to place him under suspicion. In fact, all the features that might be termed fraudulent have been decided by Simonton in favor of the railroad. The appointment of a referee is simply a fudge, and means nothing.

For the present the case is ended and justice is defeated. If the people of North Carolina can elect a legislature that has a clear majority of men in it, no matter what party they may belong to, and when certain corporation tools can be gotten out of the way, there will be a settlement of this matter and the people will have a chance to say what shall or shall not be done with their property.

THE AMERICAN COTTON COMPANY.

Doubtless every farmer in North Carolina, and the entire South, is deeply interested in the quiet but seemingly deep laid plans of the American Cotton Company, a vast combination claiming ownership of a new process for ginning, and marketing cotton.

This company asserts that it can work an entire revolution in the methods of baling cotton, and gives more than one plausible reason for its apparent faith. Of course no reasonable person can object to progress. But caution should be the watchword among farmers, ginners, and mill men, for they may be the first to feel the powerful hand of concentrated capital, guided by unscrupulous brains. A cotton trust may grow to proportions beside which the bagging trust would be a mere dwarf, were it now in existence, and it may be able to pocket more actual profits than all the farmers and ginners combined, even though its capital is far less in the aggregate.

If the American Cotton Company has useful patents it should go on with the manufacture of the machinery, and sell it in the usual way, allowing superiority, if it is indeed superior, to win public favor. To this method there is no objection whatever. But the persons interested should see that the company keeps within proper bounds, and steps ought to be taken to discover just how much or how little danger there is to be apprehended from the combination. Tomorrow may be too late.

SHERMAN AS A MENTAL FAILURE.

There are those who intimate that President McKinley has a "mental failure" in his Cabinet in the person of John Sherman, who has long been considered the ablest financier in public life. Mr. Sherman has always been a moral failure, and it is quite natural that he should fail mentally now and then.

Sherman entered Congress a little more than thirty years ago, a poor man. He had to mortgage his home to get money to pay his expenses during his first campaign. Had he spent none of his salary as Congressman and as Senator, he would now honestly be worth probably \$170,000. But it is well known that he has managed to save several million dollars out of the wreck, even after living on his salary of \$5,000 a year. Pretty good financiering! Probably the first haul he made was when he worked through the scheme to demonetize silver in '73. That was a pretty neat game, and if he didn't get at least a cool million for

that crime, he received a mighty small per cent. of the swag. He posed as a silver man during the consummation of the scheme, and, in that way, probably deceived many members of Congress. They were not aware of the depth of the innocent-looking bill Sherman introduced.

Up to the present time he has been the tool of corporate influences and the ambassador of the money-bags of the world. A man not distinguished in appearance, modest in dress, not eloquent, though a good speaker, yet he possesses all the cunning of Satan himself and wielded a powerful influence for evil. Strange to say his State has stood by him through thick and thin. This can only be accounted for by reason of the prosperity enjoyed so long by the people of that State, it being about midway between the East and the West, sharing the advantages of each, without many of the attending disadvantages. But the people of that State are now in the throes of financial distress and Sherman and his kind are fast being relegated to the rear. His mental caliber may be diminished, but even if it is not, his race is run. He will no longer sway the Ohio people. The money power can not deceive those people all the time.

THE REVENUE ACT.

The Attorney General has decided that sections 52 and 53 of the Revenue act apply to all taxes alike. These two sections are as follows:

Sec. 52. That it shall be and is hereby made the duty of the sheriff of each county in the State to make diligent inquiry and report to the judge at each term of the criminal court held in the county following the time when the license tax and taxes provided for in schedules A, B and C of this act should have been paid as to whether or not such license taxes or other taxes have been paid by all persons or corporations liable for the same, and to make out a list of delinquents. And it shall be the duty of the judge to submit the list of the delinquents to the solicitor to the end that such delinquents may be prosecuted for such default in the manner provided in the next section of this act.

Sec. 53. That such persons or corporations who are liable to pay the license tax or taxes provided for in schedules A, B and C of this act and the machinery act, and shall fail to pay the same as provided by law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or imprisoned not exceeding six months, and the sheriff shall be allowed by the judge such compensation for making such report as he may deem just and proper, to be paid by the county.

This means that all who fail to pay taxes by the November courts may be fined or imprisoned. Democrats, Republicans, and Populists alike voted for the measure. It is not a political measure. If it is a bad law, men of three parties are to blame for it, if it is a good one, men of three parties deserve the credit. It is useless to try to make political capital out of it.

The Charlotte Observer raised the tune. "It is not a democratic law," and almost every democratic newspaper joined in the chorus. Of course it is not a wholly democratic law. The Democrats did not have power to pass it unassisted. It must be admitted by these sheebs, however, that some democrats joined in the work and helped push the thing through like little men.

No political party has a corner on virtue. If you have nothing to do with any party that assisted in passing the Revenue act, then you will be compelled to take to the woods.

Commenting on the Charlotte Observer's puny cry, the Winston Republican says:

The Observer says it is not a democratic law. Maybe not, but the House Journal shows that Republicans, Populists, and Democrats voted for and against this same law which is not a political measure but an act to provide revenue to maintain our public institutions over which democrats preside, and about which democratic papers have published so many lies.

Does the Observer mean to say that the Democrats would vote against a law to provide revenue for the University, the State Asylums, &c., because a democrat was not the father of the bill? Does it mean thus openly to commit the Democratic party to the rule or ruin policy that has too often already been charged to its account?

I wonder what fool it was who said, "Congress has the power to coin money and regulate the value thereof!" Every school boy knows it isn't so—only bankers have that right. Why, if congress undertook any such wild and visionary scheme, it would bankrupt the nation in one-forty-seventh of a second. If you don't believe it, ask any banker. They are authority on such matters.—Appeal to Reason.

NORTH CAROLINA TO THE FRONT IN LITERATURE.

A few weeks ago when we mentioned the possibility of Hon. Josephus Daniels' writing an account of his heroic rescue of the State, we felt perfectly sure that if he should do so, no book could ever possibly pose as a rival of it. We fear that we were mistaken. Brave, gallant, and fearless as the Hon. Josephus was, in saving our fast-sinking commonwealth, this act was, we must confess, nothing to compare with the heroism shown by the Rt. Rev. T. B. Kingsbury during the late war.

The New Bern Journal and Sanford Express are entreating the Rev. Dr. to write a history of the bloody battles in which he stood, alone, conspicuous for his bravery! Of course nothing could be more thrilling than a spirited account of how he—standing behind a pulpit—poured hot shot into the fast-retreating Federals. Just as soon as the roar of the cannon sounded from Fort Sumter, Col. T. B. suddenly discovered that he could preach. And preach he did. With a pulpit for a breastwork you should have seen him route a whole army of Yanks.

Instead of pausing for punctuation, as other preachers do, he made good of his time by killing a half-dozen or more for every mark. At each period, he shot four times and quietly resumed his preaching; at the next semi-colon, three reports were heard and as many Yanks tottered to the earth. When a colon was reached, two blue coats fell, and at each comma, one only breathed his last. At each exclamation point, whole platoons fell in cold blood, and the learned Dr. would line some familiar hymn. Such a record should be handed down from generation to generation. Lets have the history 'at once.

Right here, however, we want to advise only persons with strong nerves to read the volume. We shall read very cautiously, and even then, we fear, we shall faint from shock before completing the first paragraph. Cowboys and redskins will gloat over the volume, however, and we hope she'll come a-trottin'. Let her come, Colonel—on the installment plan, though, until we can brace ourselves for a shock.

A CONFESSION.

It is said that Secretary of Treasury Gage has recently sent out letters to 2,000 bankers asking them what they want in the way of financial reform. No farmers or laborers were consulted.

It seems that times have changed since we attended school. It seems hard to confess our ignorance, but we must admit that for a long time we had a vague sort of idea that others beside bankers drafted the Declaration of Independence and fought to gain our independence. We were equally in error in supposing that there were a few laborers among the millions of patriotic bankers who fought, bled or died in the Civil War, to perpetuate this Union. Having discovered our error, we make an humble confession. According to Rt. Rev. Lyman Gage, and His Majesty Wm. McKinley, it seems that bankers only should have a voice in the reformation of our present financial system. They seem to think that the people surrendered all power to the bankers in electing a bankers' servant as President last fall.

Gage and McKinley asked the masses to vote for them, and they ask the masses to foot the bill of expenses, but it is the classes—the wealthy classes—to whom they bow the knee and whose mandates they obey.

RALEIGH ITEMS.

Governor Russell has offered \$400 reward for the capture of the murderer of Mrs. Springs, of Lexington. This is the maximum amount for a reward.

Labor Commissioner Hamrick believes there are over 1,000,000 spindles in North Carolina cotton mills. He also announces his belief that there are 100 furniture factories in the State.

State Treasurer Worth has brought two suits against Stewart Bros., State printers. One is against Stewart's bondsmen, and claims that the Stewart's work has not been done in accordance with the contract. The bond is for \$5,000. The second suit is based on the claim that the Stewarts have received money to which they were not entitled, and in both suits about \$25,000 is involved.

The expenses of the August school election must be paid out of the general fund, and not out of the school fund, says Attorney-General Walser.

The Attorney General decides that sections 52 and 53 apply to all taxes alike. Failure to pay property or poll tax is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Danbury Reporter, strikes the keynote when he says: "This country is just now afflicted with too much 'confidence' and too little 'sound money.' The result is—McKinley prosperity."

PRESIDENT GRAHAM WRITES.

RIDGEWAY, N. C., July 2, 1897.

To the Alliamen of North Carolina: DEAR BRETHREN—It is essential that wise and true men be sent as delegates to the State Alliance.

Let your delegates go uninstructed, with power to act intelligently after posting themselves thoroughly in reference to the business of your Order.

Your investments at Hillsboro are in no danger. Your title to that magnificent property is in fee. No encumbrance of any kind is upon it. Your credit is good. Your Executive Committee, acting as they thought for the good of the Order, changed eighteen thousand of North Carolina 4 per cent. bonds into real estate and machinery. You still have \$10,850 in North Carolina 4 per cent. bonds. Three thousand of those bonds secure the only debt you owe.

The profits of the Business Agency, with the stock and material on hand and paid for, supplemented by such stock as you may take, payable according to the terms proposed in the Secretary-Treasurer's circular letter, will in my judgment enable us to run the shoe factory successfully. The reserve of N. C. 4 per cent. bonds should continue to be held as a sacred fund, never to be encroached upon. Negotiations are in progress on the part of your Business Agent, that, if successful, will place our manufacturer of shoes upon a sure foundation.

Be patient brethren, "All things come to them that wait." Our principles are unassailable and stronger with the people to day than ever before.

Ablo! Insisto advocate Governmental ownership and operation of telegraphs and telephones as a part of the postal service. Two great political parties have espoused your financial views.

The mutterings of tax ridden toilers will soon force the levying of a graduated income tax.

Your opposition to the encroachments of corporations upon the rights of the people meets with universal approbation.

The Governor of our great State has espoused your cause in opposition to the lease or sale of the North Carolina Railroad to a foreign corporation for a price greatly less than its value.

God grant that the people may hold up his hands in his contest with monopoly backed by the encroachments of the Federal judiciary upon the rights of the States. Under such conditions it behooves all good Alliamen to take courage and gird themselves anew for the battle yet to be won.

Endeavor to win back those brethren of all political parties who have left an order that has done so much for the betterment of the American farmer, and convince them that our only object is to secure "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Fraternally Yours,

JOHN GRAHAM.

A MISSISSIPPI EXPERIMENT.

A man named Gilbert and his sister, from the west, are going to purchase a small farm near Newton, Miss., on the products of which exclusively they expect to live, says the New York Tribune. They will raise their own food and make their own clothing; they propose to sell nothing and buy nothing. Mr. Gilbert was employed as an architect on some of the world's fair buildings. He has suffered from dyspepsia and nervousness, and attributes his illness to the tension of modern life. His sister is a graduate of a high school, and has been persuaded by her brother to join in the experiment.

BE WISE ONCE MORE.

Brethren be sure you do the right thing in your County Alliance. You must be sure to look to the common sense business qualifications of your delegates to the State Alliance. Doubtless there is not a brother in your county who knows exactly what ought to be done at the State Alliance therefore to hamper you delegate with positive iron clad instructions before you or he either knows what he will learn there, will be exceedingly unwise, in my judgment. Some things cannot properly be said publicly, but can and will be said "in the meeting." Send your wisest and best man and show him that you mean business and that you expect to hear good news from the State meeting, and leave him to learn and consult with the brethren and with wisdom plan for the future. Your order is not dead. It is not broke nor half way Bankrupt. It is still in good running order. What it needs is engineers to run the machine, then you will see what she can do. Read carefully what other brethren write. Think and think seriously, and do not be too impatient at this late day. I pledge you that in the future I will not knowingly submit to an imposition upon the order by an outsider or a member without protesting and while I do not think it wise to publish what might reflect on

any officer or brother, you know my brother that it is my only way of reaching you, and you shall know of any danger I see ahead. Do not for any cause allow some unworthy or inexperienced brother to go as delegate to State Alliance. The prosperity of our organization demands this, and no further proof need we of it than our present condition.

I do not think it wise to publish to the world any business secrets but all our brethren have as much right to know the whole truth as anyone of them has, and for this reason I give below the latest statement of the cost of the Headquarters &c., at Hillsboro, as follows:

Real Estate.....	\$5,902.54
Shoe Factory.....	9,022.54
Farming and Tan Stock.....	6,477.11
Farming 1896.....	1,298.00
Interest paid.....	242.26
Cost of Ex. Com. Meetings.....	70.63

Total cost Mch. &c..... \$23,013.97

Pd. from special contributions \$3,013.97

Pd. from B. A. Fund the bal. \$20,000.00

These figures were given me by a member of the State Executive Committee to use as a delegate to Wake County Alliance, and if they are good for our county they are for all, hence I give them.

Do not let partisan politics, personal prejudice, jealousy, sympathy, sentiment, or even blood get between you and your common sense, your business judgment in selecting your delegate. Let him be what he ought to be and the State Alliance will be a blessing to generations yet unborn. Pardon this earnest and pointed appeal, but remember I am in earnest.

Fraternally,

J. W. DENMARK.

CREAM OF THE PRESS.

Hard Hits, Bold Sayings and Patriotic Paragraphs From Reform Papers.

We are on a gold basis.

We have a high protection tariff.

We have a simon pure, Republican administration.

Will somebody please tell us why our lawmakers are never arrested for passing worthless bills?—Boston Transcript.

It is a clever man who can change another's political opinion but a five dollar bill will often change his vote.—Pioneer Exponent.

We have everything morally, religiously, politically, financially and corporally that the heart of a man can ask for, except—prosperity.—Pittsburg Kansan.

It is a poor consolation to tell a retail merchant "there is plenty of money in the banks" while his customers have no money to buy goods.—Southern Mercury.

An Iowa man got a jail sentence for buying a voter. Foolish man. He should have gone to Washington City and corrupted a senator. It makes all the difference in the world.—Indiana Herald.

When cashier Sattley's Safe Deposit and Savings bank busted at Kansas City, it owed eight thousand depositors \$5,000,000 and had only \$11,000 cash on hand. And still you wonder why the people keep asking for government saving banks.—Exchange.

One honest producer, even the most humble one who pulls the bell line over the patent mule, is worth more to the world than the most dazzling millionaire speculator, who never added one thing to its general wealth.—Tribune.

Occasionally the senate turns from the trusts and combines and does something for the poor consumer. By a senate amendment to the Dingley bill foreign built yachts can now be brought in duty free.—Dawson News.

Haskell county, Kansas, went nearly two to one for McKinley and, of course, should now be enjoying "prosperity." But its people have had to economize until the county is now without a lawyer, doctor or preacher.—Independent West.

What a change is gradually taking place in the construction of society can be seen by the increased demand for public ownership of public facilities. The labor of reformers may not produce a violent change, but that a gradual change is stealing over the complexion of society no observing person will deny.—Saturday Critic.

Daniel Webster in his day was a man whose words were thought to be the embodiment of wisdom, and he said: "In a country like ours, above all others, this truth holds good: If the people can obtain a fair compensation for their labor they will have good houses, good clothing, good food and the means of educating their families. Labor will be cheerful and the people happy. The great interest of this country is labor."—Saturday Critic.

At the battle of Trafalgar, the heaviest gun used threw a projectile weighing only thirty-two pounds, which was 6.41 inches in diameter; the modern 110 ton gun uses a shell weighing two thousand pounds of sixteen inches diameter.